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AGREEMENT BY FERDINAND AND ISABELLA RE-  
SPECTING THE TOWN AND FORTRESS  
OF LUMBIER, IN NAVARRE

The following document, which was presented to the Library of Congress in the spring of 1919 by J. Ackerman Coles, M. D., LL.D., of New York, is of interest as illustrating the political situation in Navarre south of the Pyrenees, in the year 1486, and the methods used by the Spanish sovereigns in their attempt to dominate that country and prevent it from passing under the control of France.

Briefly it is an agreement on the part of Ferdinand and Isabella to pay 4,000 *doblas* of gold to three members of the Ayanz family, for the delivery of the town and fortress of Lumbier into the hands of the Spanish captain-general of the frontiers of Castile, Juan de Ribera, within the period of twenty-five days.

The ancient town of Lumbier is situated 22 miles south-south-east of Pamplona in a position of military importance, above the junction of the Salazar and Irati rivers whose valleys descend from the western passes of the Pyrenees.

In the civil wars between the factions of the Beaumonts and the Agramonts which agitated Navarre in the latter half of the fifteenth century, wellnigh reducing it to anarchy, Lumbier sided with the Beaumonts. During part of this period its captain-general was Juan Martiniz Duriz, lord of Artieda, one of the Beaumonts' warmest adherents. In 1461, Carlos d'Artieda held it for the Beaumonts. Possession of the place was warmly disputed.<sup>1</sup>

The domestic dissensions among the Navarrese offered occasions for intervention on the part of neighboring powers, by

<sup>1</sup> G. Desdevises du Dezert, *Don Carlos d'Aragon, Prince de Viane* (1889), pp. 218, 221, 246, n. 4, 257, n. 1, 295, 378, 379.

which France and the great Spanish kingdoms of Aragon and Castile did not fail to profit, in order to extend their influence within the country. In particular the Spanish rulers desired to control the fortresses guarding the highways by which the French might invade Spain. Intervention often assumed the guise of mediation. Thus, in 1476, Ferdinand, then King of Castile and heir-apparent to the throne of Aragon, played the rôle of pacificator between the Beaumonts and Agramonts, and then concluded a treaty with the governor of Navarre, which permitted him to place garrisons, temporarily, in certain fortresses possessed by the Beaumont faction, including the fortress of Lumbier. This treaty made him virtual protector of Navarre.<sup>2</sup>

The accession of the young Queen Catherine to the throne of Navarre in 1483 gave the rival sovereigns of Spain and France an unusual opportunity to tighten their grasp upon the small kingdom, as they were quick to perceive. Ferdinand and Isabella displayed the greatest energy in trying to arrange a marriage between the girl Queen and their son, Don Juan. For this end they negotiated with the regent of Navarre, the Queen's mother; and bought or otherwise secured support from the Cortes of Navarre, as well as from a section of the Agramont party (which generally favored France) and from the Beaumonts, whose powerful leader the Count of Lerin agreed to deliver the Beaumontese places to the Spanish captain Juan de Ribera. Indeed, before the negotiations ended the aforesaid Agramonts as well as the Beaumonts had entered into treasonable alliance with the Spaniards and Juan de Ribera had occupied several places in Navarre.<sup>3</sup>

The efforts of Ferdinand and Isabella were checkmated by the King of France, who was able to frighten the regent of Navarre into consenting to a marriage between the Queen and Jean d'Albret. But the marriage, which took place in 1484, had unexpected consequences; since it immediately involved the rulers of Navarre in a struggle between French factions, which

<sup>2</sup> P. Boissonnade, *Histoire de la Réunion de la Navarre à la Castile* (1893), pp. 12-14.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 35-45; 50-55.

alienated them from the King of France, and led them, in 1485, to placate the rebellious Beaumonts by restoring their offices, privileges, and places, and even to turn to the Spaniards for aid.<sup>4</sup> Jealous of the favors lavished upon the Beaumonts, the Agramonts would not lay down their arms.<sup>5</sup>

Such was the state of affairs in Navarre when Ferdinand and Isabella bargained with the Ayanz family for the delivery of the town and fortress of Lumbier.

On the particular circumstances connected with the incident, the books accessible to the contributor throw a dim and uncertain light. They show, however, that the Ayanz were kinsmen of the Artiedas, and like them had been partisans of the Beaumonts. But in 1482 the Artiedas slew several of the Ayanz, and because the Count of Lerin, chief of the Beaumonts, received the murderers into his house, the Ayanz (who were numerous and very brave), transferred their allegiance to the Agramonts.<sup>6</sup> If the Artiedas were still captains of Lumbier in 1486, it would seem that Ferdinand and Isabella were profiting by a family feud as well as by partisan strife, in their transactions respecting the fortress.

FRANCES G. DAVENPORT.

### El Rey e la Reyna

Por quanto vos, Lope de Assiaga, en nombre de Charles de Ayanzo e Johan de Ayanzo e Johan de Ayanzo su fijo, e por virtud del poder que dellos teneys, nos prometistes e segurastes e jurastes que los dichos Charles de Ayanzo e Juan de Ayanzo e Johan de Ayanzo su fijo nos entregaran, e a Don Johan de Ribera nuestro capitan, en nuestro nombre e a quien nuestro poder o suyo para ello cometido, la villa e

<sup>4</sup> In 1485 the sovereigns of Navarre annulled the decree of banishment against the exiles from Lumbier, and confirmed Carlos de Artieda in the office of *justiciado* of Pamplona, and in the offices which are called *Almiradios* of the valleys of Lumbier, Sarassaz and Longira. G. Zurita, *Anales de la Corona de Aragon*, lib. xx., c. 63; IV. (1629), p. 338.<sup>ro</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Boissonnade, *op. cit.*, pp. 73, 74.

<sup>6</sup> P. José de Moret, *Anales del Reino de Navarra* (1890-1892), VII. 66. It is also said that in this same year a member of the house of Ayanz agreed to assassinate the Count of Lerin, of whom the King wished to be rid. Moret, *op. cit.*, p. 74; Boissonnade, *op. cit.*, p. 30.

fortalesa de Lunbier con su tierra e termino, desde oy fayta veynte e cinco dias primeros siguientes Nos acatando el servicio que en la entrega dela dicha villa e fortaleza rrecibimos e por faser merced a los dichos Charles de Ayança e Juan de Ayança e Juan de Ayança su fijo en henmienda e rremuneracion dello por la presente vos seguramos e prometemos por nuestra fee e palabra rreal de dar a vos el dicho Lope de Assiaga en nombre de los suso dichos e para ellos quatro mill doblas de oro castellanos (o a dose rreales de plata por cada una) delos quales nos pornemos luego, en poder del dicho Don Johan de Ribera trescientos e cincuenta mill de maravedis en dinero, e dose joyels de oro, el uno con uno balax e tres perlas, e el otro con otro balax grande en un cofre, para quello de e entregue a Charles de Cabalça alcayde de Nabardun e a vos el dicho Lope de Assiaga, dando le vos otros al dicho Don Juan seguridad bastante laque entre vos otros e el fuera acordada a tal patyo e condicion que sy la dicha villa e fortaleza de Lunbier le fuere entregada dentro delos dichos veynt' e cinco dias por los dichos Charles de Ayança e Juan de Ayança e Juan de Ayança su fijo o por su parte por manera quel o quien su poder cometida se apoderado en lo alto e baxo dello a toda su voluntad, que podays dar e entregar los dichos trescientos e cincuenta mill maravedis a los dichos Charles de Ayança e Juan de Ayança e Johan de Ayança su fijo e ayan despues de rrecevir en vuestro poder solo dichos joyellas por tiempo de dos meses primeros siguientes, contados desde el dia quela dicha villa e fortaleza de Lunbier asy fuera entregada al dicho Don Johan o a quien su poder cometido por pcedo e seguridad de quinientes e treynta e ocho mill maravedis que rrestan por pagare delas dichas quatro mill doblas sobre solo dichos trescientos e cincuenta mill las quales dichas quinientas e tryenta e ocho mill maravedis vos prometemos de vos pagare dentro delos dichos dos meses e sy lo non fezieremos que pasados los dichos doss meses podays entregar los dichos dos joyels a los dichos Charles de Ayança e Johan de Ayança e Juan de Ayança su fijo para que ellos lo tengan hasta que nos los paguemos las dichas quinientas e treyntas ocho mill maravedis pero sy dentro delos dichos veynt' e cinco dias non fuere entregada la dicha villa e fortaleza por los dichos Charles de Ayança e Juan de Ayança e Johan de Ayança su fijo o por su parte al dicho Don Juan de Ribera o a quien su poder cometido como dicho es que en tal caso seays obligados vos el dicho Lope de Assiaga e el dicho alcayde Charles de Cabalça de tirnar e rrestituyr e entregar al dicho Don Johan de Ribera o a quien su poder para ello cometido los dichos trescientos e cincuenta mill maravedis e

los dichos joyels segund e por la forma quel vos lo dase e entregase. En fe delo qual vos mandamos dar esta nuestra carta, firmada de nuestro nombre e scellada con nuestro scello. Fecho en la cibdad de Salamanca a viente dias del mes de noviembre año del Señor de mill e quatro[cientos] e ochenta e seyss anos.

YO EL REY.                      YO LA REYNA.

Por mandado del Rey e dela Reyna,

FERNAND ALVARES.

### The King and the Queen

Inasmuch as you, Lope de Assiaga, in the name of Charles de Ayanzo and Juan de Ayanzo and Juan de Ayanzo, his son, and by virtue of the power that you hold from them, have promised and assured us and sworn to us that the said Charles de Ayanzo and Juan de Ayanzo and Juan de Ayanzo, his son, will deliver to us and to Don Juan de Ribera, our captain, in our name, to whom our power is for this purpose committed (or to whomever he empowers), the town and fortress of Lumbier, with its land and district, within twenty-five days first ensuing,—We, in acknowledgment of the service that we have received by the delivery of the said town and fortress, and to confer honor on the said Charles de Ayanzo and Juan de Ayanzo and Juan de Ayanzo, his son, in reward and recompense thereof, by these presents assure and promise you, on our royal faith and word, to give to you, the said Lope de Assiaga, in the name of the aforesaid and for them, four thousand Castilian *doblas* of gold (or twelve reals of silver for each *dobla*), of which we will immediately place in the power of the said Don Juan de Ribera, three hundred and fifty thousand *maravedis* in money, and two jewels of gold, one with a ruby and three pearls, and the other with another large ruby, in a box, in order that he may give and deliver it to Charles de Cabalça, alcaide of Nabardun, and to you the said Lope de Assiaga (you two giving the said Don Juan sufficient security which shall be agreed on between you two and him), on this condition, that if the said town and fortress of Lumbier shall be delivered to him within the said twenty-five days by the said Charles de Ayanzo and Juan de Ayanzo and Juan de Ayanzo, his son, or on their behalf, in such manner that he (or to whomsoever his power is committed) shall enter into complete possession, to do as he likes with it, that you may give and deliver the said three hundred and fifty thousand *maravedis* to the said Charles de Ayanzo and Juan de

Ayaño and Juan de Ayaño, his son, and having received into your sole power the said jewels for the period of two months first ensuing, counted from the day that the said town and fortress of Lumbier shall have been thus delivered to the said Don Juan, or to whomsoever his power is committed, as value and security for five hundred and thirty-eight thousand maravedis which remain to be paid of the said four thousand *doblas* over and above the said three hundred and fifty thousand; which said five hundred and thirty-eight thousand maravedis we promise to pay you, within the said two months, and if we do not, after the lapse of the said two months, you may deliver the said two jewels to the said Charles de Ayaño and Juan de Ayaño and Juan de Ayaño, his son, to hold them until we pay to them the said five hundred and thirty-eight thousand maravedis; but if within the said twenty-five days the said town and fortress shall not be delivered by the said Charles de Ayaño and Juan de Ayaño and Juan de Ayaño, his son, or on their behalf, to the said Don Juan de Ribera or to whomsoever his power is committed, as aforesaid, that in such case you the said Lope de Assiaga and the said alcaide Charles de Cabalça shall be obliged to return and restore and deliver to the said Don Juan de Ribera or to whomsoever his power is committed for that purpose, the said three hundred and fifty thousand maravedis and the said jewels according to and in the form that they were given and delivered to you. In confirmation of which we order you to be given this our letter, signed with our name and sealed with our seal. Done in the city of Salamanca on the twentieth day of the month of November in the year of the Lord one thousand four hundred and eighty-six years.

I, THE KING.

I, THE QUEEN.

By order of the King and Queen,

FERNAND ALVARES.